

Debating Urbanism

Within and Beyond the Walls

A.D. 300–700



edited by

Denis Sami and Gavin Speed

Leicester Archaeology Monograph 17

**Debating Urbanism Within and Beyond
the Walls A.D. 300–700**

*Proceedings of a conference held at the
University of Leicester, 15th November 2008*

Front cover image:
Overgrown road at Classe, port of the late antique capital of Ravenna,
Italy (© Gavin Speed)

Back cover images:
The 'Porta Praetoria' at Aosta (© Gabriele Sanlorenzo)
Collapsed Roman building and overlying Anglo-Saxon building,
Leicester (© University of Leicester Archaeological Services)

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This monograph contains papers from an international conference held at the University of Leicester on 15th November 2008. The papers were presented by a range of both academic and professional archaeologists, historians, and finds specialists, many of whom are young researchers who are currently undertaking doctoral research, or are recent graduates. The papers focused on new studies, debates, and interpretations on changing urban forms from A.D. 300–800. These cover a range of European countries and themes that highlight the diverse and varied research currently underway. Each paper is placed within one of four themes, and preceded by a general introduction and comments by an established academic.

The editors would like to thank all who delivered papers at the conference, to those who have published their papers here, and to the large audience who attended and contributed greatly to the debates during the conference. Thanks also to the chairs (Prof M. Carver, Dr N. Christie, Dr S. Esmonde-Cleary, Prof D. Mattingly, Dr J. Moreland, Dr G. Sears) who developed and framed the debates on the day, and whose introductions and comments on the earlier draft papers greatly enhance this publication. Many thanks to staff and students of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester for support and assistance during the smooth running of the conference; and to the University of Leicester Student Research Fund for funding the conference and part of the cost of this monograph. Thanks also to Dr D. Edwards for his assistance in publishing this within the Leicester Archaeology Monograph Series, we also will like to thank R. Wanner and A. Tullett for their help. Finally, special thanks in particular to Dr Neil Christie for his guidance throughout to the editors who set-up and organized the conference and this monograph.

GS/DS

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